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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

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Doc. No. FAA-2004-17460 - 11

Docket Management System  
U.S. DOT Room Plaza 401  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Docket Number FAA-2004-17460 Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Air Tour Management Plan at Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Dear FAA Administrator,

At Lake Mead natural sounds are considered a natural resource and as such receive as much protection under the National Park Service Organic Act as do the plants and animals. The resource of natural sounds at Lake Mead urgently needs the protection of a sensible air tour management plan, which limits impacts, especially noise and visual intrusion, from air tour operations on sensitive resources and visitor's experiences of peace, quiet and solitude.

I am also concerned about the well being of residents who live in communities along the air tour flight routes. I live in Silverwood Ranch near the take-off path for many air tour operators' out of North Las Vegas airport. Year round, flights take off and land continuously from dawn until dusk disrupting the peace and quiet of our neighborhood. The Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) Environmental Assessment (EA) is the ideal place to address the impacts air tours have on the people in communities they fly over. Please also consider the people who live under the existing air tours routes heading to Lake Mead and the Grand Canyon when developing the Lake Mead ATMP.

The ATMP for Lake Mead must clearly identify the best alternatives to protect park resources and visitors' experience, as well as the well being of people in Las Vegas living under current flight paths. In the EA please provide information on background noise levels, number and timing of flights per day and year, and detailed maps of flight routes. It would also be very useful to know the number of individual air tour operators flying to Lake Mead NRA and to Grand Canyon National Park. In order to protect Lake Mead resources and visitors, and communities that live along the sightseeing paths, there needs to be strict limits set on the numbers of flights per day and the number of days per year air tours are allowed to fly.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

